REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10, and 12 are pending in this case. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10, and 12 are amended by the present amendment to correct matters of form and with changes to the claims supported in the originally filed disclosure at least at paragraph [0052] of the published Specification. Thus, no new matter is added.

The outstanding Office Action objected to Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10, and 12 and rejected Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Kokubo (U.S. Patent No. 4,984,002).

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10, and 12 are amended as suggested at page 2 of the outstanding Office Action. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the claims be withdrawn.

Applicants traverse the rejection of the claims.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to an imaging apparatus and recites, *inter alia*, "wherein said timing part measures the elapsed time from the exposure period timing signal right before a beginning of **an exposure setup operation configured to set a number of electric shutter pulses** to the beginning of the exposure setup operation by said setup part for the exposure period, and **when** a time from the beginning of the exposure setup operation to a generation of a next exposure period timing signal, **the time being calculated by using the measured elapsed time, is equal to or greater than a predetermined time, said imaging apparatus control part shortens the time till the generation of the next exposure period timing signal from a regular exposure period.**"

The outstanding Office Action asserts Kokubo as teaching every element of Claim 1. Specifically, the outstanding Office Action asserts the trigger signal of Kokubo as teaching

the beginning of the exposure setup operation as defined by Claim 1 and the sync. generator 5 of Kokubo as teaching the timing part as defined by Claim 1.

Kokubo describes controlling an electronic shutter by varying an effective charge accumulating time of a charge-coupled device. In Kokubo, the starting of the exposure time is made constant while the ending is varied. As described at column 3, line 30, to column 4, line 5, of Kokubo, a trigger signal is applied, sync. generator circuit 5 supplies a timing pulse generator circuit 6 with a vertical synchronizing signal VD, and the timing pulse generator circuit 6, in turn, generates a sensor gate pulse which is fed to the charge-coupled device and timed to occur when the exposure time is terminated. As depicted at Fig. 6 and described at column 5, lines 32-53, of Kokubo, the trigger signal applied to the input terminal is supplied to the variable delay circuit 21 to delay the vertical synchronizing signal VD and, thereby, delay the **ending point** of the charge accumulating time of the charge-coupled device. Thus, the exposure is started with the application of the trigger signal such that the "**starting point of the charge accumulating time is fixed,**" as described at column 5, lines 50-52, of Kokubo, and shutter speed is controlled by varying the ending time of the exposure period.

However, as is clear from the above description, Kokubo does not teach or suggest an exposure setup operation "configured to set a number of electric shutter pulses," but, instead, Kokubo describes a constant beginning of the exposure time and a variable ending of the exposure time to control the exposure period.

Thus, Kokubo cannot teach or suggest that "said timing part measures the **elapsed time from the exposure period timing signal right before a beginning of an exposure setup operation configured to set a number of electric shutter pulses to the beginning of the exposure setup operation**..., and when...time being calculated by using the measured elapsed time, is equal to or greater than a predetermined time, said imaging apparatus control part **shortens the time till the generation of the next exposure period timing signal** from a

regular exposure period," as recited by Claim 1, because, in Kokubo, the trigger starting the exposure period in Kokubo is unchanged, and the length of the exposure is adjusted by **varying the ending time of the exposure period**. To the contrary, as defined by amended Claim 1, the **time till generation of the next exposure period timing signal is shortened**.

The outstanding Office Action asserts that the vertical synchronizing signal VD of Kokubo teaches the exposure period timing signal as defined by Claim 1 and that the vertical synchronizing signal VD is adjusted in Kokubo, thereby teaching that "said imaging apparatus control part shortens the time till the generation of the next exposure period timing signal," as defined by Claim 1. However, as described above, in Kokubo, the timing pulse generator circuit 6 generates a sensor gate pulse, in synchronization with the vertical synchronizing signal VD, which is fed to the charge-coupled device and timed to occur when the **exposure time is terminated**. Thus, delaying the vertical synchronizing signal VD to extend the time of charge accumulation in Kokubo does not teach or suggest "said imaging apparatus control part shortens the time till the generation of the next exposure period timing signal," as defined by Claim 1.

Because Kokubo does not teach or suggest at least the above-discussed features of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) of Claim 1 and Claims 2 and 4, which depend therefrom, be withdrawn.

Claims 5 and 9, though differing in scope and statutory class from Claim 1, patentably define over Kokubo for similar reasons as Claim 1. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) of Claim 5, Claims 5 and 8, which depend therefrom, Claim 9, and Claims 10 and 12, which depend therefrom, be withdrawn.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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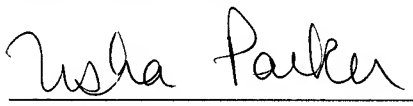

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